

the SARATOGA *Special*



Year 12 • No. 34

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWS ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Saturday, September 1, 2012



The Man

Mucho Macho Man gets
his chance in Woodward

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WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"He was one of our top picks when he was a young 2-year-old, got him to the races and the dirt just wasn't his bag."

Trainer Shug McGaughey, about Bernard Baruch favorite Data Link

"Most of the time, he's on it right away. I hustled him hard, he didn't want any part of it."

Jockey John Velazquez, about Shackleford's disappointing run in the Vanderbilt, run over a muddy track earlier in the meet

"We're happy, three graded stakes wins. Good meet."

Owner Bill Lawrence, after Balance The Budget completed a stellar meet for Lawrence and Klaravich Stable

"I love Saratoga. I want to be involved on the big stage if I can."

Trainer Phil Gleaves, after winning the Equalize

"I acquired the mare, she was in foal with this guy at the time I acquired her, we bred her back to Monarchos, she's got a Consolidator weanling, she's in foal to After Market and we'll see about next year."

Gleaves, about his breeding program that produced Miami Cat

"And I'm a local boy."

Author/exercise rider George Harrison, who wrote Horsetalk1, a fun guide to horse racing terminology

"You know the drill."

Doc Cheney, when asked if he was looking for a check as he walked through an empty stable Friday morning

"I thought it was somebody else, so I left him there."

Jump jockey Willie Dowling, when seeing a person passed out on the lawn

"I had no idea they were on plants. I only see them on burgers."

Chaplain and tomato contest judge Humberto Chavez, about tomatoes

"Mott grows it, but I eat it."

Trainer Christophe Clement, about a backside garden including basil, tomatoes, peppers, okra, parsley and potatoes

"You're probably the reason it was downgraded."

Trainer Mark Hennig, after hearing that The Special doesn't cover the Grade 2 Hopeful

"There's still a few of them around here."

Retired trainer Phil Hauswald, when informed about a webbing with his initials on it

"You could have worked that one."

Trainer Tom Bush, to The Special's Sean Clancy, after Point Of Entry breezed on the turf Friday morning

"Probably could have."

Shug McGaughey, trainer of Point Of Entry

"I'm going to stop and put some at every rest stop from here to Monkton."

Trainer Todd Wyatt, with a handful of Specials Friday morning (Wyatt's You The Man won the first on Thursday)

"A big daily bright spot for us who experience the meet vicariously through the paper."

Reader Bob Buika, describing The Special

"If you don't know my brother Larry, when you meet him he'll pretend to know you until he knows you."

NYRA's Tim Kelly, about his brother Larry (who was in town, briefly, to ship Phil Gleaves' horses back to Florida)

"Kentucky Monthly Uniting Kentuckians Everywhere."

Cooler slogan on a horse at Merrill Scherer's barn

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Tod Marks photo

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here&there...

Continued from
previous page



Tod Marks

Exit Stage Voss. The THV shedrow is empty.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,000: Dollars donated to Old Friends by author/exercise rider George Harrison from the sale of his book *Horsetalk2* (To buy books, email Orders@Xlibris.com).

4: Pairs of shoes in Dave Grening's car (one for the track, one for casual wear, one for working out and one for the races).

LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

123WPS, New York.

T-SHIRT SLOGAN OF THE DAY

"There's no place like this place anywhere near this place so this must be the place."
It was about a bar (we think) in Florida, but could apply to Saratoga

NAMES OF THE DAY

Not Today, second race. What we're going to say after the last edition prints Sunday.

Isthmus, fifth race. Filly is by Flower Alley out of Dancing Water.

Micromanage, seventh race. Colt is owned by Repole Stable.

Next Question, 11th race. What we've been thinking about for six weeks.

WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny. High, 80. Low, 50.
Sunday: Partly cloudy. High, 80. Low, 58.
Monday: Isolated Thunderstorms. High, 79. Low, 65.
Tuesday: Who cares?



JUST SAYIN'

"He's like me in the eighth grade."

— Racing manager Finn Green, as Mucho Macho Man
anxiously chomped on his bit before galloping Friday morning

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PHOTO

of the day

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two
geese.

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The Chief... Day 34

"Jimmy Harris was the best. Every horse would get rubbed as if he was a stakes horse. He rubbed Beau Purple, Admiral Vee. He was off the day Beau Purple came in the barn, I put him in his stall. He came in the next morning and said, 'Who that donkey in my stall?' I said, 'That's a horse called Beau Purple.' He said, 'Yeah, where he pull grass at?' I said, 'He's a nice horse.' He said, 'Yeah, we'll see about that.' I didn't think that much about Beau Purple, I thought he was in between, not quite a stakes horse. Mr. Dreyfus said don't ever hedge about putting the horses in the stakes races, it's like poker, you've got to ante up.' I said, 'There's one tonight, closes at 11 o'clock.' Tommy Trotter, in those days, he wouldn't take a stake nomination a minute after 12, nowadays, they're flexible, I got somebody to get him on the phone and put him in, and he won the race, that's when he beat Kelso and Carry Back."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens



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Manning Up

Mucho Macho Man gears for Grade 1 assault

BY JOE CLANCY

Kathy Ritvo watched Mucho Macho Man walk toward the barn after training Friday morning and oohed like a fan, not a trainer.

"See those muscles up across his back? See them?" she asked. "Three months of jogging."

Always big, long-legged, fast and full of potential, Mucho Macho Man won his third career start at 2 and competed in all three Triple Crown races last year. Then he took a vacation, spending five months away from the races. He jogged, he chilled, he worked on those muscles. Mostly, he grew.

Last November, in his return from the bench, he won an optional claimer at Aqueduct. This year, he's flown up the ladder with wins in the Sunshine Millions Classic in January, the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Handicap in March and the Suburban in July. The only real blemish was a third in the Alysheba at Churchill Downs in May. At 8-5 in a field of seven,

See **WOODWARD** page 8 ►



Tod Marks

Woodward favorite Mucho Macho Man checks out the paddock Thursday.

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 6

the 4-year-old son of Macho Uno goes for his first Grade 1 in today's Woodward. In three of its last four runnings, the \$750,000 race has been won by the eventual Horse of the Year (Havre de Grace, Rachel Alexandra, Curlin), and Mucho Macho Man would boost his chances significantly with a victory.

Ritvo is just glad the race has finally arrived, bumping fists with Reeves Thoroughbred Racing's Finn Green after training Friday. Their job is done. The horse is ready. The preparations complete. He will walk out of his deeply bedded and high-banked stall at the end of Ritvo's barn on the far turn of the main track this afternoon — as ready as he can be.

Off since a July 7 romp in the Suburban, Mucho Macho Man has owned Saratoga in the early morning. He trains at 5:30 to avoid the crowds at Oklahoma, at first standing like the Seabiscuit statue (one that chews on a ring bit the way the cool kids crack their gum) along the rail, then jogging the wrong way past the wire, turning and stepping into a slow canter. Friday, he swished his tail and played through the early stages, but was nothing but business on the second trip through the stretch for exercise rider Nick Petro.

In addition to those gallops, Mucho Macho Man has worked five times at Saratoga, including Oklahoma moves of 47 seconds for a half-mile Aug. 12, and 1:00 4/5 for 5 furlongs Aug. 19. He went to the main track Aug. 26, getting



Tod Marks

Stay Thirsty looks for his fourth Saratoga victory for Repole Stable and Todd Pletcher.

5 furlongs in 1:02 4/5.

Ritvo and Green both list their horse at 17-3, and he's at least in the neighborhood. He looks big in his stall. He looks big walking the shedrow. He looks big drinking huge gulps from his water bucket. He looks big standing outside the barn. On the track, he's still big but he's got a balance, a flow to

him. Big? Yes. Awkward? No.

"He's put on a lot of muscle," said Ritvo about how her horse has changed. "He's definitely getting bigger and better every day. He looks really good. He was always very sensible, but now he's smart. He's just strong, strong in his mind and he's strong in his body now too."

Mucho Macho Man won the Grade 2 Risen Star last year at Fair Grounds, then finished third in the Louisiana and Kentucky Derbies. Bred by John and Carole Rio, the bay colt wound up sixth in the Preakness and was a well-beaten seventh in the Belmont mud. Ritvo called for a break and drew up a 2012 schedule with Green, who was hired as the racing manager for Patti and Dean Reeves this time last year.

"We were pretty straightforward with our approach," Ritvo said. "Coming off a 5-month layoff gave us a lot of confidence. He definitely likes the time between races because he likes to train so much. We didn't think about the Whitney (Aug. 4). We made a plan last year and we mapped out all his races. We had backups — if this didn't work, we could go here — but we stuck to the plan and so far it's been great. Hopefully it will continue."

For Green, the Woodward is a chance to extend that plan and confirm his opinion of the horse.

"He's a cool horse, a neat horse," said Green. "I was around him in Florida at the end of his 2-year-old year. I loved the horse, I thought 'Wow, he's huge.' He reminded me of a lot of horses from my childhood. Late Bloomer, Stage Door Johnny, Bowl Game, the bigger horses from back then that were two-turn horses. The first thing I thought when I saw him was 'This is going to be a good two-turn horse, but he's going to need time.' He had raw ability, a lot of it. What Kathy's done in the last 10 or 12 months, having the time, and the way she trains him,

See **WOODWARD** page 10 ►



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Cease exits a win over the track, at the Woodward distance, July 25.

Tod Marks

Woodward —

■ Continued from page 8

has really made a difference. He's got muscles in his back that big horses don't get. It gives him a different look, a different appearance. You try to do everything right with them, and hope it works out."

Mucho Macho Man starts from post three with Mike Smith, who joined the team in the Suburban — in part because of the jockey's touch with big, long-striding horses.

A few stalls to the favorite's outside in the gate will stand another big, long, strapping horse. Five-year-old gelding Cease puts his 3-for-3 Saratoga mark on the line while looking for his first graded stakes win for trainer Al Stall. The bay has run just 12 times in his career, but exits a powerful tally in an optional claimer here July 25.

Like Mucho Macho Man, Cease needed time to catch up to himself and didn't start until late in his 3-year-old season for owners/breeders Adele Dilschneider and Claiborne Farm. He won twice here last summer, just missed in the Hawthorne Gold Cup in October

and was fifth in the Breeders' Cup Marathon. This year, the son of War Chant won the Maxxam Gold Cup at Sam Houston, chased Wise Dan home when fourth in the Ben Ali and was fifth in the Louisville Handicap on turf in May.

Stall likes what Saratoga does to his horse, though he's not just here for the weather.

"His coat is really slicked-up right now and he looks good," said the trainer. "He makes you look at him. He runs pretty well everywhere, it's not just here. He's been in some bigger races. He's got some hair on his chest, he's seen some tough horses. I don't feel like I'm throwing him to the wolves. He can take it. We went from a one other than to the Hawthorne Gold Cup, almost won the thing. He's all right."

Cease breaks from the outside in the seven-horse field for Joel Rosario and is 10-1 on the morning line.

Favored in his last four starts, Live Oak Plantation's 2-1 second choice To Honor And Serve looks to rebound from losses behind strong performances — Shackleford's Met Mile May 28 and Mucho Macho Man's Suburban July 7. The 4-year-old son of Bernardi-

See **WOODWARD** page 12 ►

Hey Al Stall, how do you get a big horse to develop?

"Just wait until they grow up, don't overdo it. Cease took care of that himself with minor injuries at 2 and 3. All that time he kept getting, he got bigger and stronger. You could look at him when he was born and know he wasn't going to be ready at 2, or 3 really."



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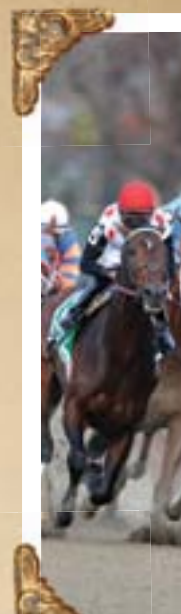
Charlotte Weber

I had a love for horses and had an opportunity early on in life, and I thought the racing game was glamorous and I was young and easier to influence in that day. So I thought, 'Let's take a stab at this,' and I got the bug.



I thought he was professional before this race, but this certainly puts the right markings on his calendar. He's going to go home to Live Oak and rest for a little bit. I can't see any reason not to race him next year. Having fun is what this game is all about.

— 2011 Cigar Mile



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CATALOG NOW ONLINE



To Honor And Serve is the second choice in the Woodward.

Tod Marks

Woodward —

■ Continued from page 10

ni opened 2012 with a powerful score in the 1-mile Westchester at Belmont. Trainer Bill Mott dialed up a half-mile tightener in 49 4/5 seconds at Oklahoma Monday. John Velazquez gets back aboard for the first time since winning an optional claimer here last summer.

Jim Dandy and Travers winner Stay Thirsty finished fifth behind the favorite in the Suburban but returns to the scene of three of his four career wins for Repole Stable and Todd Pletcher. The 4-year-old starts from post five at 5-1 for Javier Castellano. Trainer Rick Dutrow brings Trickmeister in off a fifth in the Whitney four weeks ago. The lightly raced 5-year-old won a

small stakes here in 2010 and defeated Stay Thirsty in the Vanlandingham at Belmont in May. Irad Ortiz takes the ride at 6-1 from post four.

Our Sugar Bear Stable's Gourmet Dinner returns to the races two weeks after finishing fourth in Monmouth Park's Iselin for trainer Bruce Brown. The 4-year-old son of Trippi boasts more than \$1 million in career earnings. Alan Garcia rides from post two at 30-1.

WinStar Farm's Rule breaks from the rail while looking to erase the sting of a 25-length defeat in the Whitney. The 5-year-old son of Roman Ruler won the Grade 2 Monmouth Cup in his 2012 debut and captured the Birdstone before finishing third in the Woodward here last summer. Ramon Dominguez rides at 12-1.

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Thu., Aug. 30	Sat., Sep. 8	Japan Racing Association	3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 6	Sat., Sep. 15	All Brandy (Reg. MD-breds)	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Classic	3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Nursery	2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Sprint	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Lassie	Fillies 2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Distaff	F&M 3 & Up	7 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Starter Handicap	3 & Up	1 Mile	\$50,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Distaff Starter Handicap	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile	\$50,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Oaks	Fillies 3-y-o	1 Mile	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Turf Sprint	3 & Up	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Turf	3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Sep. 27	Sat., Oct. 6	MD Million Ladies	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Laurel Futurity	2-y-o	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Selima	Fillies 2-y-o	5 1/2 Furlongs (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Laurel Dash	3 & Up	6 Furlongs (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Lady Baltimore Stakes	F&M 3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Laurel Turf Cup	3 & Up	1 1/4 Miles (T)	\$150,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 18	Sat., Oct. 27	Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash	3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$350,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Oct. 25	Sat., Nov. 3	Smart Halo	Fillies 2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 1	Sat., Nov. 10	James F. Lewis III	2-y-o	6 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 8	Sat. Nov. 17	Safely Kept	Fillies 3-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 15	Thu., Nov. 22	Geisha Handicap (Reg. MD-breds)	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 15	Sat., Nov. 24	Gin Talking	Fillies 2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 22	Sat., Dec. 1	Jennings Handicap (Reg. MD-breds)	3 & Up	1 Mile	\$100,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 22	Sat., Dec. 1	Marylander	2-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Nov. 29	Sat., Dec. 8	City of Laurel	3-y-o	7 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 6	Sat., Dec. 15	Willie on the Move	F&M 3 & Up	6 Furlongs	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Thu., Dec. 13	Sat., Dec. 22	Thirty Eight Go Go	F&M 3 & Up	1 Mile	\$125,000 Guaranteed
Tue., Dec. 18	Wed., Dec. 26	MD Juvenile Filly Ch. (Reg. MD-breds)	Fillies 2-y-o	7 1/2 Furlongs	\$100,000 Guaranteed
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Race #

1	Inny Minnie Scenario Analysis Island School	Scenario Analysis Island School Inny Minnie	Scenario Analysis Island School Zultanite	Island School Inny Minnie Off Limits	Glamour N Glory Zultanite Island School
2	Winter Now Not Today Reserve Currency	Ambit Not Today Reserve Currency	Ambit Winter Now Truman's Commander	Winter Now Not Today Ambit	Springcourt Ambit Winter Now
3	Flying Pegasus Overextended Crown The Chief	King Rock Coffee Boy Stormin Bud	Stormin Bud Starforaday Coffee Boy	Crown The Chief King Rock Stormin Bud	King Rock Overextended Starforaday
4	Lily The Pink Cerce Cay Flower Mart	Conquesta Lily The Pink Battle Bridge	Pearl In The Sand Lily The Pink Flower Mart	Pearl In The Sand Divine Luck Cerce Cay	Lily The Pink Conquesta Pearl In The Sand
5	Hillswick Simba's Story Take Down Two	Hillswick Repole Entry Take Down Two	Hillswick Simba's Story Sam Sparkle	Repole Entry Closerwalk Take Down Two	Take Down Two Be Bullish Sam Sparkle
6	A Boy Named Em Bay Park Boy Willy Pay	A Boy Named Em Willy Pay Bay Park Boy	Willy Pay A Boy Named Em Windswept Summer	A Boy Named Em Flying Masster Bay Park Boy	Willy Pay Rockstar Life Devoted Wildcat
7	Apex Gulfport Micromanage	Gulfport El Duro Apex	Gulfport Apex Micromanage	Apex Gulfport El Duro	Gulfport Micromanage Flying Bird
8	Data Link Dominus Queen'splatekitten	Data Link Dominus Guys Reward	Data Link Guys Reward Queen'splatekitten	Data Link Dominus Sky Blazer	Crimson China Data Link Guys Reward
9	Emcee Pacific Ocean Shackleford	Jackson Bend Shackleford Emcee	Jersey Town Emcee Shackleford	Jackson Bend Emcee Shackleford	Jackson Bend Jersey Town Shackleford
10	Mucho Macho Man To Honor And Serve Rule	Mucho Macho Man Cease To Honor And Serve	Cease To Honor And Serve Mucho Macho Man	Mucho Macho Man Cease Trickmeister	Trickmeister Mucho Macho Man To Honor And Serve
11	Neatie The Cat Next Question Petey Cramer	Cybertron Next Question Neatie The Cat	Next Question Petey Cramer Sleepy Freud	Next Question Neatie The Cat Western Tryst	Next Question Barbara ntry Western Tryst
12	Katie Malone Madame Johar Muhammara	Madam Johar Katie Malone Ampa's Girl	Madame Johar Ampa's Girl Katie Malone	Katie Malone Muhammara Madame Johar	Madame Johar Bunhead Mela Dramatically

2012 Records

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117/333

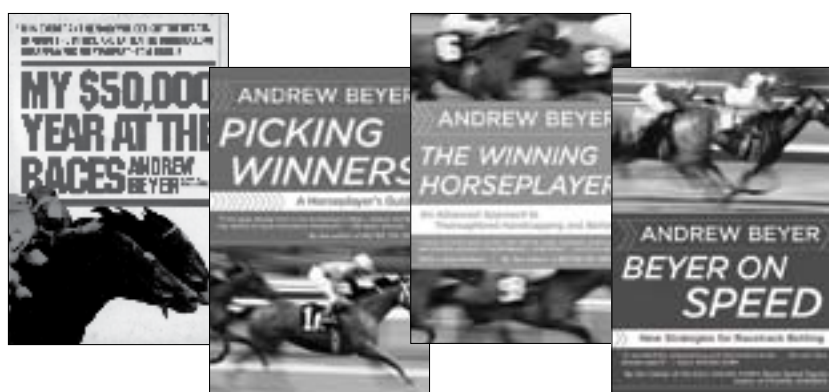
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Tod Marks

Shackleford looks to rebound from an eighth on a muddy track in the Vanderbilt.

Mudder Better

Shackleford gets dry track, another chance, in Grade 1 sprint

BY SEAN CLANCY

FOREGO STAKES PREVIEW

John Velazquez knew it early.

On the way to the start for the Grade 1 Vanderbilt Aug. 5, Shackleford galloped next to his lead pony, slowly as always. Mud spattered above Shackleford's socks, under his chestnut belly, head bowed. From the grandstand, he looked the same, but he was a different horse.

Aboard for the second time, Velazquez could feel things were different than when the hard-trying son of Forestry won the Met Mile at Belmont Park in May.

"In New York, with the pony, he was galloping slow but you can feel him, he's on the muscle," Velazquez said. "Here, he galloped OK, going slow, but just going through it. He gave me a little sign, he wasn't on the pony, aggressive, he was just going through the motions and that's how he ran. I hustled him hard and he didn't go anywhere."

Like Union Avenue traffic after the Travers.

Velazquez pushed and shoved Shackleford from the rail and the five-time winner managed to get within 2 lengths of the lead on the backstretch, but he drained as quickly as he filled. Shackleford wound up last, beaten 9 lengths by longshot Poseidon's Warrior.

Trainer Dale Romans blamed the mud, Velazquez blamed the mud.

"It was the mud. It doesn't matter

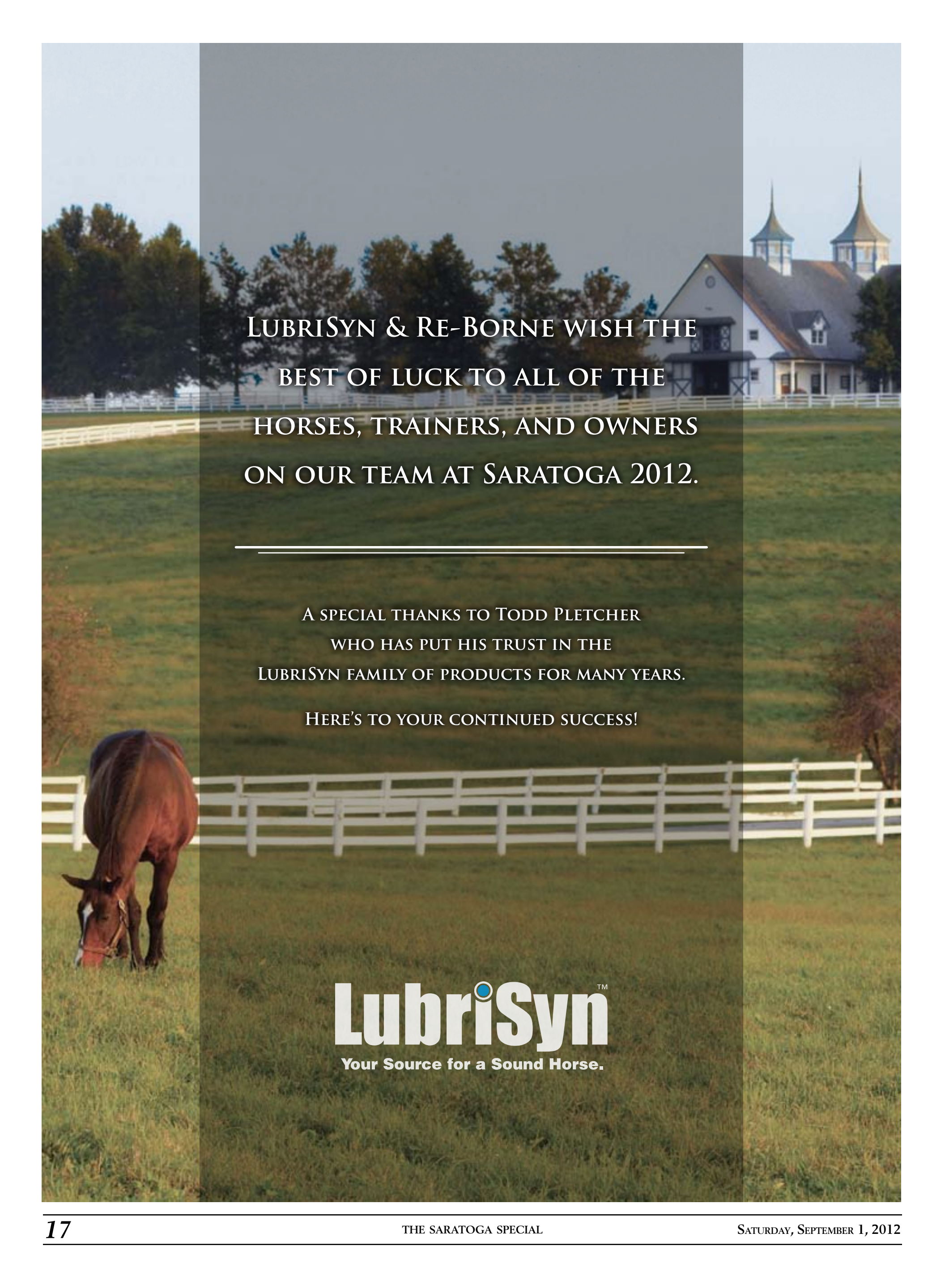
where he is, he didn't even stand up in the mud, he ran in the mud before and ran horrible, his only three bad races are when it's wet," Velazquez said. "I knew from the get go, I hustled from there and he didn't even jump, you hustle him and he gets in the bridle right away, the first three jumps I knew I was in trouble, he doesn't try in the mud, at least for me. It's the first time I rode him on a bad track, I hustled him out of there, 'hmm,' it's like he throws on the brakes, it's like he says, 'You go for me.'"

Today, Shackleford gets the chance to confirm his jockey's and trainer's assessment of the Vanderbilt, lining up from the 2 stall against seven others, including seven-time winner Jackson Bend, James Marvin winner Pacific Ocean and Vanderbilt-third Emcee.

Owned by Michael Lauffer, William Cubbedge and Phillips Racing Partnerships, Shackleford has run hard his whole life, winning the Preakness, finishing second in the Florida Derby, Haskell, Indiana Derby and Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile last year. This year, he finished seventh in the Donn, third in the Carter before winning the Churchill Downs Stakes and Met Mile.

Velazquez replaced injured Jesus Castanon before the Met, winning that

See **FOREGO** page 18 ►



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Forego —

■ Continued from page 16

by a nose before the mud flop in the Vanderbilt. The Hall of Famer is convinced things will be different as Shackleford breaks from an inside slot again but has another furlong and a fast track to utilize his unusual mix of speed and stamina.

"He's been inside before, he's been between horses before, but if he doesn't like the track, he's not going to go," Velazquez said. "I'm going to hustle him to get a good position, he won't be in the lead I don't think, but he'll be at least second or third, he goes right away, even if he breaks slow, when he broke at Belmont, I went like that and he was on the bridle, very quickly on the bridle."

Pacific Ocean and Emcee possess dangerous speed from stalls 5 and 6. Velazquez will watch those two foes but won't concede anything early.

"There's plenty of speed in the race, but he'll be right on it," Velazquez said. "I'm going to stay in there with them, if I'm not on the lead, I chase them. If I'm on the lead, let them chase me."

One way or another, there will be plenty of chasing.

Dennis Narlinger's Pacific Ocean has led in his three most recent starts, including a front-running score in the James Marvin earlier in the meet. Trained by Rick Dutrow, the 5-year-old gelding posted tepid fractions that day which helped him repel Jackson Bend and four others in the Grade 3 stakes. Joel Rosario gets the return call.

Emcee breaks outside Pacific Ocean for Godolphin and trainer Kiaran McLaughlin. The three-time winner finished a half-length behind Poseidon's Warrior in the Vanderbilt, running hard the whole way for Alan Garcia, who rides for the third consecutive time. The son of Unbridled's Song won his first two starts before finishing third in the Tom Fool, fourth in the Carter and winning an allowance before the Vanderbilt.

Nine-time winner Jackson Bend will certainly be one of the benefactors of a speed duel. Owned by Robert LaPenta and Fred Brei, the 5-year-old son of



Tod Marks

Jackson Bend won last year's Forego and tries to stay No. 1 again.

Hear No Evil finished fifth behind Shackleford in the Met and fourth behind Pacific Ocean in the Marvin. In the former, he was taken out of his game by being close. In the latter, he couldn't get in his game while chasing a dawdling pace. Junior Alvarado rides for the first time.

The \$1.6 million earner has had a rough meet, losing the Marvin July 20 and colliding with another horse while on a routine gallop Aug. 18. Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito thought he had seen it all.

"I saw the horse on the track, I saw the pony back-tracking and I was hoping it was not him. You don't

want it to be any of your horses but you're hoping it's not him. I kept looking at my list and thinking. Then I thought 'Oh no, it's got to be him,' " Zito said last week. "It was one of those weird mornings in your life. It had nothing to do with anything, just a circumstance. I got over there and he was flat on the track. Then he got up. He was in shock, we gave him fluids and he came back to himself. It's a miracle, just a miracle."

Zito ran all the tests that could be run and found

See **FOREGO** page 19 ►

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Forego —

■ Continued from page 18

nothing.

“All the tests were good – ultrasounds, X-rays, heart, ribs, lungs, blood counts,” Zito said. “We tried to get him to reserve the energy as much as we could when we started back with him. It’s amazing. He’s amazing.”

The Florida-bred won last year’s Forego, rolling down the stretch to catch today’s rival Jersey Town and draw off by 3 1/2 lengths.

Rick Dutrow also entered Isn’t He Perfect for Guy American Racing Stable. The 4-year-old son of Pleasantly Perfect hasn’t finished worse than second since joining Dutrow’s barn earlier this year. He tries the Willy Beamin, shortening from 9 furlongs to 7 furlongs. Of course, he’s had four weeks rather than three days. Ramon Dominguez rides.

Charles Fipke’s homebred Jersey Town exits the Vanderbilt as well. The 6-year-old finished 5 lengths behind the winner that day and tries to snap a losing streak dating back to the Cigar Mile in 2010. Edgar Prado rides for Barclay Tagg. A check will push him over the \$500,000 mark in career earnings.

Repole Stable’s Caixa Eletronica shortens from a eighth in the Whitney for his third start at the meet. Trained by Todd Pletcher, the 7-year-old won the Charles Town Classic at 9 furlongs and the True North at 6 furlongs earlier this year. Javier Castellano rides.

Hamazing Destiny breaks from the outside for Wayne Lukas and Rajiv Maragh. The five-time winner rallied to be fourth in the Vanderbilt for Barry Butzow and Westrock Stable. The 6-year-old son of Salt Lake has finished behind Emcee, Caixa Eletronica, Shackleford and Jackson Bend over the past two seasons. He’ll aim to pick up the pieces while stretching to 7 furlongs for the first time since May.



Tod Marks

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.

Pacific Ocean returns after winning the 7-furlong James Marvin on Opening Day.

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Eclipse Sportswire

Data Link eyes his third win of 2012 for trainer Shug McGaughey.

Same Data, Different Page

McGaughey anxious to start Data Link over firm turf

BY SEAN CLANCY

Three weeks ago, Shug McGaughey stood outside his barn and talked confidently about Data Link. The 4-year-old had won the Monmouth Stakes and the Maker's Mark Mile in his two most recent starts on firm turf and lined up with a serious chance in the Fourstardave.

Then the rain came.

McGaughey was forced to scratch and watch Wise Dan dominate the Fourstardave.

Three weeks later, there's no change for trainer or horse and a big change in the forecast before the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch Handicap at 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon Turf.

"No rain," McGaughey said, moments after Sword Dancer winner Point Of Entry worked Friday morning. "He's done really well, I was dis-

BERNARD BARUCH PREVIEW

appointed I didn't get to run him, but we're looking forward to this, looks like we'll catch a firm turf, a mile-and-a-sixteenth, if he runs his race, he'll be tough."

Stuart Janney's homebred always runs his race – on firm turf. In 10 tries on the turf, Data Link owns six wins, a third, two fourths and a fifth. The latter three came when trying yielding ground in his turf debut, soft turf in a minor stakes at Belmont last fall and over good ground in the Turf Classic at Churchill Downs in May. He's been beaten once on firm turf, when third in the Grade 3 Canadian Turf in March.

McGaughey had no choice when it rained before the Fourstardave.

"I was disappointed but there was

See **BARUCH** page 22 ►



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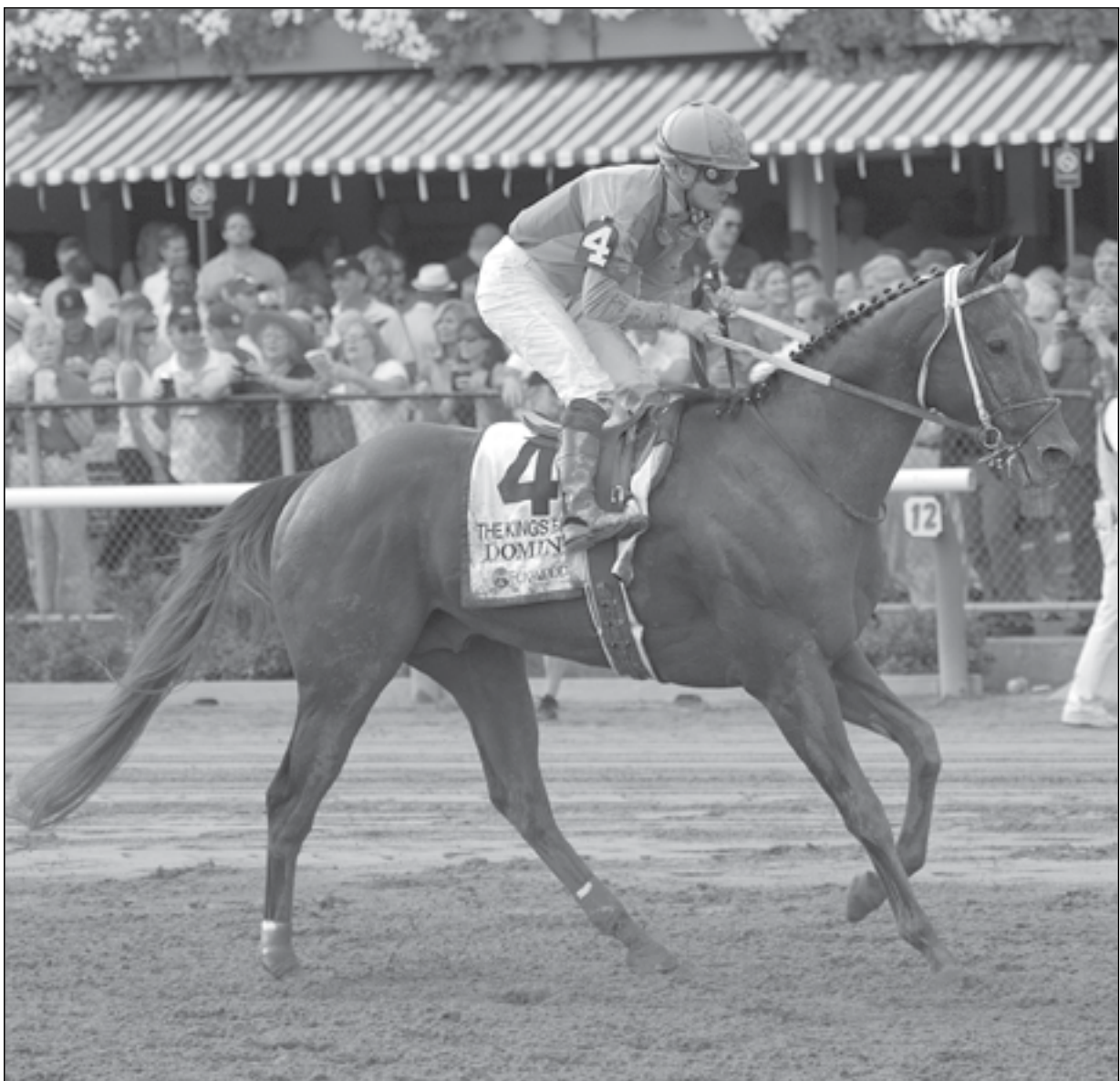


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Grade 2 winner Dominus makes his turf debut for trainer Todd Pletcher.

Tod Marks

Baruch —

■ Continued from page 20

no sense running him on that turf," McGaughey said. "He just doesn't run that good on it."

No horse has trained better at the meet than Data Link. McGaughey worked him an easy 3 furlongs on the training track three days after missing the Fourstardave. Six days later, Data Link floated through 5 furlongs in 59 on the Oklahoma turf. Seven days later, he went an easy half. McGaughey wasn't worried about keeping him on boil for an extra three weeks.

"He does whatever you want him to do, it's not an up and down thing with him, he's fine," McGaughey said. "He's a good work horse, he likes what he does, I think it will work out fine."

John Velazquez, aboard Data Link for his most recent stakes win, has the return call.

Todd Pletcher entered two in the \$250,000 stakes.

Dominus brings a heady record for his turf debut for George Bolton and Stonestreet Stable. Dominus captured the Dwyer, finished second in the Derby Trial and third in the Jim Dandy last year while with trainer Steve Asmussen. Pletcher took over this season, unleashing the son of Smart Strike in a 7-furlong allowance here August 4. Dominus crushed eight rivals that day. Searching to broaden the options, Pletcher breezed the 4-year-old Virginia-bred on the Oklahoma turf August 27. Forty-seven seconds later, his name was written above the Bernard Baruch in Pletcher's condition book. Julien Leparoux takes over for Velazquez who sticks with Data Link.

Mill House's Queen'splatekitten hasn't finished worse than fourth in four tries this year, recently placing second in the Grade 3 Oceanport at Monmouth Park, but hasn't won since taking the Marine Stakes at Woodbine last summer. Javier Castellano, who was aboard at Monmouth, takes the call.

See **BARUCH** page 23 ►

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■ Continued from page 22

Michael Bruder's Guys Reward had a three-race losing streak snapped in the Fourstardave when fourth behind Wise Dan, Corporate Jungle and Get Stormy. Trained by Dale Romans, the 5-year-old won an allowance, the Opening Verse and the Firecracker before trying the Fourstardave. Joel Rosario rides.

Sky Blazer makes his first start since finishing sixth in the Arlington Handicap July 14. Trained by Barclay Tagg, the 4-year-old son of Sky Mesa went through his four conditions but has yet to win a stakes. Rosie Napravnik rides for owners Joyce Young and Gerald McManis. Sky Blazer has posted four sharp works over the Oklahoma turf during the meet.

Grade I winner Prince Will I Am makes his first start since finishing last in the Grade I Manhattan last summer. Owned by Casa Farm, the 5-year-old son of Victory Gallop won the Grade I Jamaica and the Grade II Walter McKnight in 2010. He opened his 2011 campaign with a win in the Grade II Mac Diarmida at Gulfstream, before losing three consecutive races for trainer Michelle Nihei. Ramon Dominguez rides the five-time winner from the outside post.

Graham Motion steps up with Team Valor's Crimson China. The 4-year-old son of Giant's Causeway hasn't won since taking the Lamplighter last May. Alan Garcia retains the mount.



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Talking Shop



Archwarrior strides toward the finish in Thursday's maiden victory.

Tod Marks

John Velazquez guided the fastest horse on the grounds, 2-year-old Archwarrior, to a debut win Thursday. The Special caught up with the Hall of Famer to ask him about the son of Arch who won easily for trainer Todd Wyatt and Alto Racing after weeks of conversation and much ballyhoo.

The Special: What did you think?

Velazquez: "Very good, very, very good. He might not have broke as fast as they would have wanted, but he got in a good position; after that he was doing it pretty easy, I just had to keep his mind on running."

The Special: He's certainly fast, but his pedigree indicates a future going long as well.

Velazquez: "He goes all day, man, all day. He's so big, it took a little bit to get him going, once I got him going, I just sat against him, he was looking at the horse inside of me, I put him as close as I could so he doesn't shy away from him, after that, he was pretty easy. I wish they were all like that."

The Special: Do you have a good idea about which 2-year-olds will develop?


Velazquez: "They have to stay sound, but this one feels like he'll go on, the longer distance is going to benefit him, for sure."

The Special: How many times did you breeze him?

Velazquez: "This is the first horse I got on after the injury, the very first work. I breezed him a half-mile on the training track, after that I breezed him all the way until the last two easy works. Tristan (Barry) does the set list, I said, 'Just give me something easy that's going to take care of me, I don't want one that will run off with me.' He was like a pony, all the way from the trotting track to the training track, he was a like a pony, galloped really easy and worked, really, really good. Todd said, 'Don't worry, you're going to get on on a difficult one tomorrow, this one was easy.' I can't remember who the next one was, but he was tough."


The Special: Describe your mindset when you first worked him.


Velazquez: Before I got on him, I said, 'Just take good care of me.' The second time, he wanted to run off with me."




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Rocket Man

BY RYAN JONES

I never thought it would be more difficult to get an internship with NASA than it would be to get into college, but apparently that's the case.

Of course, I also never thought an article in a horse racing newspaper would make me cry, but one did. Working for five weeks with The Saratoga Special gave me a new perspective on a sport, an industry. I saw racing like I'd never seen it before.

Sean Clancy brought me aboard the boat that is the Saratoga Special in mid July. An e-mail or two and a phone call later, I was on the team, part of the crew, helping to navigate the rough waters of the Saratoga meet. Sean and Joe stood at the helm, veteran skippers for sure.

You could see the experience in Sean's eyes, what 11 years of covering racing at the Spa had taught him. Meanwhile, high up in the crow's nest, Joe Clancy presided over the entire paper. I never walked into the office above Putnam Market on Broadway not to find Joe toiling away on the computer, running between rooms trying to keep us all afloat.

We lost a couple souls overboard in rough weather. Some parted ways after various ports-of-call, mainly after the Fasig-Tipton sales, but we weathered each wave, staying late, getting up early, working our way through each paper, relishing that feeling on Sunday night of

knowing there was no paper Monday or Tuesday.

Down on the deck, Gabby Gaudet and I found a way to hold on as waves crashed over our heads and sent us tumbling. Working for The Special is challenging, but isn't life? Some days, you feel like you could conquer any story, whatever you put down on paper is gold, ideas are flowing like the water over Niagara Falls. Yet there are days when no matter what you do the world seems to be against you. You get to the backside at 5:30 with the intention of interviewing two trainers – but you've forgotten your press pass. Half an hour later, you're back, this time press pass in hand, a minor delay but nothing to fret about. After trips to the Morning Line, stakes barn, Oklahoma Annex, and Clare Court you trudge back to your car, four hours later, a blank notepad staring you in the face. You have no clue what to do, you learn to pick yourself up by the bootstraps, put it behind you and move on.

Working for The Special taught me more about life than I had anticipated. There's something special about horse racing that the casual fan rarely gets to see. I got to see the emotion associated with the wins, the losses, the early mornings, and the late nights. The joy on an owner's face after a win, and the sadness, although hidden, in a trainer's eyes

after a loss. I could feel the excitement in the paddock air before the Whitney, but by the same token I could hear the pain in a trainer's voice after a loss in the Vanderbilt.

Even if only for a little while, racing becomes a part of you. Your heart begins to beat to the tune of a galloping horse.

For a kid who grew up in Saratoga, the races were always a staple of my summer. I knew the summer was half over by time we reached opening day, but the races, as a young boy, were always about spending time with family; learning to read a program from my dad, sitting atop his shoulders so I could see over the crowds peering into the paddock. I remember the stories my dad used to tell me of sneaking through a hole in the fence along Nelson Avenue as a child and how he watched Affirmed cut off Alydar from the infield in the 1978 Travers as a young man. Those days are long gone, and I can only hope that one day I'll take my son to Saratoga. I'll tell him the story of how two great racehorses tied in the biggest race at Saratoga. I'll walk with him along the same path I took everyday to deliver newspapers and tell him my stories of how The Saratoga Special changed me.

It's difficult to express how I really feel about this summer and how much the people I met, the stories I heard, and the memories I made, mean to me. It's something you feel. I don't know if among all the hustle and bustle, the struggle to meet deadlines, get ahead or

rather, not fall behind, I took the time to appreciate the opportunity I was given.

There were moments, early in the morning, when I just stood at the rail of the main track, closed my eyes and listened. I listened for the footsteps of a horse galloping past, the heavy breathing, maybe the whisper of an exercise rider. I felt like I was a kid again, lying in my bed on Christmas Eve listening for the hooves of Rudolph and Dancer, Prancer, and all the other reindeer, but moments like those only last a fleeting second. If there's one thing I learned from The Special it's that, "These are the good old days."

I will always remember my time. I'll never forget Sean's laugh, flagging down Jack Clancy for a golf cart ride, watching Ryan Clancy hot walk around Graham Motion's barn. Driving the golf cart through the grandstand delivering papers in the morning, swerving around posts, as if I were on a slalom course. Afternoons at the races with Gabby Gaudet, playing rock-paper-scissors to decide who had to chase a trainer through the clubhouse to get an interview.

I'll never forget the people I met, the memories I made, and the little things.

I know that there are only a couple more words remaining in this column. The Special will go on, but I will be getting off the ship. College is a long way removed from the glamour of Saratoga. I'll miss the smell, the smiles, the sights, and sounds, but I'll never forget what I learned, and more importantly, the people who taught me.

Editor's Note: Special staff writer Ryan Jones is at Brown University, playing rugby and working on a degree in astrophysics (or something like that). If the NASA gig falls through again, we'll take him back.

The defining moment . . .

"My dad is a 5th generation trainer and my mom managed the farm. I was 14 when she started New Vocations. A trailer arrived to drop off a horse at our farm and it had several nice Thoroughbreds on board. My mom asked the shipper where the others were going. He told her they were freebie Thoroughbreds going to an auction and then probably to slaughter, my mom was horrified. That was her defining moment and thus New Vocations was born in 1992. The first year we took in 25 Thoroughbreds. Last year, we placed 429 horses, and that is just a drop in the bucket compared to how many need our service."

– Anna Ford, New Vocations



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Just Say Yes

BY GABBY GAUDET

I received a phone call Friday afternoon, June 1. Sean Clancy called to ask if I wanted to come to Saratoga for the summer and help write for The Saratoga Special. I teetered on the question. I had no idea what the job entailed, I had never been to Saratoga and I was already obligated to an internship at a marketing agency in Annapolis, Md. I thought about it, thought some more, and decided.

We all know how I answered.

Looking back, knowing how many times I was shunned, times I was kicked around, how many long nights, early mornings, stressful days, hours of sleep, miles walked, and words written during the five weeks working with The Special, I would have said yes faster.

Sunday afternoon I sat behind the wheel of my little burgundy car, bags packed, en route back home to Maryland. Traffic, bathroom breaks, snack stops, traffic and more traffic prolonged the six-hour drive to nine. Nine hours is a long time, especially when you're leaving Saratoga. I thought about all the things I did, all the people I met, all the things I learned.

Here's my Saratoga checklist:

Never say yeah, huh, or finish a sentence with a preposition.

Reins and reigns are not the same, I learned the hard way.

The noises Joe Clancy makes nearing the deadline proves that he was indeed a pterodactyl in a past life.

The Clancy brothers go through more tea than the Queen.

Writer's block is a not a myth.

When in doubt – Google.

The Saratoga Special has a Hall of Fame.

Anyone who has ever spent any time on the track has a story fit for a Tuesday afternoon soap opera.

Walking from the Morning Line Kitchen to Clare Court, to the stakes barn, to Oklahoma and back to the Morning Line Kitchen three times in one morning is, in fact, possible.

Care.

The man outside Putnam Market can carry a tune with plastic buckets and glass jars better than anyone on iTunes.

For the same man outside The Saratoga Special's third-story office, money does fall from the sky (out of Sean Clancy's window).

You actually have to press the record button to record something.

The longer you ride, the longer you ride.

Pay attention.

There's no time for excuses.

Don't go to the Saratoga library, you very rarely ever come back.

If you're ever in need of a number, ask Ralph Theroux.

Rules for Twitter: Do be sarcastic. Don't be obvious. (Thanks to Ryan Clancy).

Jack Clancy secretly aims for all of the potholes while driving The Special's golf cart.

Nolan Clancy is, hands down the best 11-year-old photographer/paper toss player I've ever known.

Finding out Tom Santomaro is covering race recaps on Thursday and Friday gives me more joy than opening presents on Christmas morning.

Be attentive to detail.

I learned that I still have no idea how Sean and Joe Clancy write so much, so fast, so well.

Even astrophysicists count with their fingers . . . occasionally.

Sometimes you just need to "land the plane."



Erin McNamee knows more shortcuts than a New York City cab driver.

Life outside your comfort zone isn't so bad after all.

One deep breath on a cool Saratoga morning makes you forget all the bad stuff.

Unmotivated people can teach you just as much as the driven; they show you what not to be.

The tears shed at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony show that even the legends bleed blood.

Home is not always where the heart is.

Don't hear . . . listen.

The things you're scared of usually are the most worthwhile.

I've been back in Maryland for three days. Home doesn't feel the same. School doesn't feel the same.

All I have are 30 issues of The Special in my top desk drawer, a few photos and a mindful of memories of my first Saratoga summer.

I'm glad I said yes.

Editor's Note: Special staff writer Gabby Gaudet is back at Towson University, studying and working hard. We couldn't have done it without her.



Tod Marks photo

There's More TO COME!

Steeplechasing's championship division will be in action in Belmont Park's Lonesome Glory Stakes (Gr. 1) on Sept. 27.

Steeplechasing action continues through the fall at local race meets throughout the East Coast.



Jump Into The Action!

FIGHT LUNG CANCER

Ryan Clancy (Joe's oldest son) will be running his first full marathon on October 28th at the Marine Corps Marathon for a good cause. Please help Ryan and Lung Cancer Alliance raise national awareness and advocate for increased lung cancer research funding!



To make a donation visit Team Lung Love at <http://teamlunglovedc.kintera.org> and click donate to participant: **RYAN CLANCY**

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Name of the Day – the Long Version

Contributed by reader Jane Sessler.

This is the story of a Name of the Day that should have been but never was.

In the early 2000s I was one of the owners of Halfway To Heaven, by Comet Shine out of Midway Gal (I had named her). She was a Name of the Day back then when she raced at Saratoga but she never won here. She did win 10 races, 9 at NYRA tracks. In the summer of 2004 Jimmy Ferraro and I went out to the McMahons' farm to find a suitable stud for her as we were going to breed her in spring 2005. I decided that we would breed Halfway To Heaven to Judge TC and if we got a colt we would name him Peter At The Gate.

In spring 2006, Heaven foaled a colt and everyone thought we had a great name for him. As it worked out, he would be her only foal as Heaven died of colic in fall 2006. In taking her to the veterinarian, the van was in an accident on the Thruway in which two people died. The foal, who had not yet been weaned, was moved to a farm near Saratoga. Just before it was time to send in his name to The Jockey Club, I got a call from one of my longterm partners saying that although he had no problem with the name, his family thought it was too religious and although we had been calling him that for a year and a half, could we please find another name.

The colt had a large blaze on his face and as a tribute to his dam, Peter At The Gate became Heavenly Blaze. He ran and won at Saratoga in the summers of 2009 and 2010. We were excited and happy that our only breeding attempt had had such a wonderful outcome. Blaze (a.k.a. Peter at the Gate) would go on to win once more in January 2011. He then finished third in a New York-bred stakes that winter, but broke a bone in his foot and had to be retired. He was retrained for the horse show circuit and seems to be doing well and very happy there.

You Can't Make This Stuff Up

Trainer Donna Green spent the first two weeks of the meet looking for help. Her four-horse string came north from Miami with Green and groom Darin Holstein. A hotwalker would have really helped matters. Based in the old Sanford Barns across Union Avenue, she didn't exactly get much walk-through traffic from people looking for work. So she went to Wal-Mart.

"I'm shopping one day, like all the other shoppers and this guy comes up and starts talking to me," she said. "Don't you work at the track? You're a trainer, right?"

Green just wanted some groceries and tried to move along, wondering if the guy was a disgruntled bettor, a want-to-be owner, something.

Then he asked the universal racetrack question: "Need any help?"

The trainer laughed, said she could use a hotwalker.

"The guy was at my barn at 6 o'clock the next morning," she said. "How about that? I found a hotwalker at Wal-Mart."



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FRIDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday August 31.

FIRST \$80,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

1A	My Happy Face	R. Dominguez	\$2.40	\$2.10	\$2.10
5	Dixie Smile	R. Maragh		\$2.90	\$2.60
3	Lemon Song	W. Garcia			\$4.20
Gr/ro Filly 2010, by Tiz Wonderful - Summer Star by Siberian Summer					
Owner: Dubb, Michael. Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez.					
Breeder: Spendthrift Farm & Shawhan Place (KY).					
Late Scratches: Wild One, Yankeeindixieland, My Kinda Party					
Time: 1:03.55					
Exacta (1-5), \$6.80; Trifecta (1-5-3), \$36.20					

SECOND \$70,000, SOC \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

8	Cantonic	R. Napravnik	\$9.80	\$4.30	\$3.20
1	Hobbs	J. Castellano		\$3.00	\$2.50
5	Scorcher	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.30
Dk B/ Br Gelding 2006, by Candy Ride (ARG) - Mariah's Cat by Forestry					
Owner: Damchu Stables. Trainer: Michael Maker.					
Breeder: Sez Who Thoroughbreds & Aron Yagoda (NY).					
Late Scratches: Grandpa Len, Thessalonian, Never On Time, Dear John, Drink With Pride					
Claimed: Hobbs claimed by Hurtak, Daniel C. for \$50,000					
Time: 1:41.51					
Daily Double (1-8), \$11.20; Exacta (8-1), \$26.40; Quinella (1-8), \$10.80; Superfecta (8-1-5-9), \$663.00; Trifecta (8-1-5), \$109.50					

THIRD \$100,000, STAKES - BIG BAMBU S., 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

4	Mildly Offensive	J. Velazquez	\$5.70	\$3.60	\$2.90
6	Kid Kate	J. Lezcano		\$3.40	\$3.20
2	Dancinginherdreams	J. Alvarado			\$4.30
Dk B/ Br Filly 2008, by Sharp Humor - It's Personal by Personal Flag					
Owner: WinStar Farm LLC. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.					
Breeder: WinStar Farm, LLC (KY).					
Time: 1:15.94					
Daily Double (8-4), \$47.20; Exacta (4-6), \$24.40; Superfecta (4-6-2-5), \$600.00; Trifecta (4-6-2), \$128.00; Pic 3 (1-8-4), \$28.00					

FOURTH \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

3	Sustained	J. Alvarado	\$7.70	\$4.50	\$3.50
9	Manuka Honey	W. Garcia		\$16.00	\$8.60
8	Sensationalize	J. Lezcano			\$4.30
Dk B/ Br Filly 2010, by War Front - Sweetstorm Amy by Lemon Drop Kid					
Owner: Pompa, Jr., Paul, P.. Trainer: Dale Romans.					
Breeder: Tollgate Stables Partnership (KY).					
Late Scratches: Win for Kitten, Oscar Party, Daar Zayed					
Time: 1:42.32					
Daily Double (4-3), \$21.60; Exacta (3-9), \$186.00; Quinella (3-9), \$118.00; Superfecta (3-9-8-5), \$7,881.00; Trifecta (3-9-8), \$834.00; Pic 3 (8-4-3), \$149.50					

FIFTH \$52,000, CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

1	King Ting (IRE)	J. Castellano	\$7.00	\$4.30	\$3.30
7	Wayward Sailor	J. Ortiz		\$31.40	\$11.20
8	Irish Lion	R. Maragh			\$5.80
Dk B/ Br Gelding 2008, by Holy Roman Emperor (IRE) - Ting A Greeley (GB) by Mr. Greeley					
Owner: Kenneth L. and Sarah K. Ramsey. Trainer: Michael Maker.					
Breeder: Old Carhue Stud (IRE).					
Late Scratches: Liston, Omniscient, Settle for Medal, Isthmus, Coosada, Sinorice					
Claimed: King Ting (IRE) claimed by Keller, Marc for \$35,000					
Time: 1:34.55					
Daily Double (3-1), \$30.00; Exacta (1-7), \$247.50; Superfecta (1-7-8-3), \$14,355.00; Trifecta (1-7-8), \$1,989.00; Pic 3 (4-3-1), \$109.50; Pic 4 (8-4-3-1), \$471.00					

SIXTH \$60,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

8	Uncle Southern	C. Velasquez	\$39.80	\$14.20	\$7.00
2	Goodtolook	D. Cohen		\$4.50	\$3.40
5	Pie's First Lady	R. Dominguez			\$4.20
B Filly 2010, by Uncle Camie - Southern Statement by Dixie Brass					
Owner: J and M Racing Stables.					
Trainer: Linda Rice.					
Breeder: Uncle Camie Breeding Farm (NY).					
Late Scratches: Our Pedroia, Winning Gold					
Time: 1:02.91					
Daily Double (1-8), \$238.00; Exacta (8-2), \$159.50; Superfecta (8-2-5-10), \$1,580.00; Trifecta (8-2-5), \$843.00; Pic 3 (3-1-8), \$685.00					

SEVENTH \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

2	Conspiracy	R. Dominguez	\$12.20	\$6.60	\$4.40
3	Cape Glory	J. Castellano		\$5.20	\$4.00
4	Invocation	J. Rosario			\$4.30
Ch Colt 2009, by Giant's Causeway - In Truth by Quiet American					
Owner: Gary and Mary West.					
Trainer: Chad Brown.					
Breeder: J. Mike Lauffer, James Lauffer & Greg McDonald (KY).					
Time: 1:50.84					
Daily Double (8-2), \$310.50; Exacta (2-3), \$72.00; Superfecta (2-3-4-8), \$2,172.00; Trifecta (2-3-4), \$484.00; Pic 3 (1-8-2), \$1,358.00					

EIGHTH \$100,000, STAKES - RISK AVERSE S., 3 YO, 1M

5	Dayatthespa	J. Castellano	\$3.00	\$2.60	\$2.20
4	Peace Preserver	J. Velazquez		\$5.50	\$3.50
2	Alaura Michele	E. Castro			\$3.60
Ch Filly 2009, by City Zip - M'Lady Doc by Doc's Leader					
Owner: Frankel, Jerry, Frankel, Ronald, Laymon, Steve and Bradley Thoroughbreds.					
Trainer: Chad Brown.					
Breeder: Castellare DiCracchiolo Stable, Cracchiolo & Goldsher (NY).					
Late Scratches: Thunderous Lady, Angel Terrace, Resonating, And Why Not, Ainsley, Dame Marie					
Time: 1:34.20					
Daily Double (2-5), \$24.40; Exacta (5-4), \$18.60; Superfecta (5-4-2-8), \$501.00; Trifecta (5-4-2), \$66.50; Pic 3 (8-2-5), \$659.00; Place Pix Nine (1/7/8-2/5/8-2/3/4-5), \$42.80					

NINTH \$41,000, CLAIMING \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

9	Bravo Habibi	J. Rosario	\$8.60	\$5.10	\$3.50
2	Shotinthefog	J. Alvarado		\$13.60	\$6.10
5	Partly Mocha	E. Castro			\$3.10
B Colt 2009, by Stormy Atlantic - Princess Sequoia by Cherokee Run					
Owner: Zayat Stables, LLC.					
Trainer: Steven Asmussen.					
Breeder: Kim Nardelli & Rodney Nardelli (KY).					
Late Scratches: Synthesizer, Why Broadway, Tardy, Black Rhino, My Man Dan					
Claimed: Into the Fray claimed by Detampel, Marc for \$35,000					
Time: 1:01.66					
Daily Double (5-9), \$17.80; Exacta (9-2), \$101.00; Superfecta (9-2-5-10), \$1,578.00; Trifecta (9-2-5), \$279.00; Pic 3 (2-5-9), \$146.00; Pic 4 (8-2-5-9), \$3,359.00; Pic 6 (3-1-8-2-5-9), \$496.00					

Attendance: 14,951
 On Track Handle: 2,664,590
 Intra-State Handle: 2,097,198
 Inter-State Handle: 8,189,731

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FRIDAY'S SARATOGA WINNERS • PHOTOS BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON



1 My Happy Face



2 Cantonic (left)



3 Mildly Offensive



4 Sustained



5 King Ting



6 Uncle Southern



7 Conspiracy



8 Dayatthespa



9 Bravo Habibi

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Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2012

	Stakes Wins	Stakes Winners	Graded Stakes Wins	Individual Gr. Winners
Team Valor International	10	7	5	4
Eclipse TB Partners	5	4	2	1
Pinnacle Racing	4	2	3	2
Peachtree	3	3	2	2
Starlight	3	3	2	2
Dream Team Stable	2	2	1	1
Donegal Racing	1	1	1	1
Class Racing	1	1	1	1
Let's Go Stable	1	1	1	1
Thoroughbred Legends	1	1	1	1
West Point	1	1	1	1
Three Chimneys	1	1	0	0
Dogwood	1	1	0	0
IEAH	1	1	0	0
Live Your Dreams	1	1	0	0
Majestic Racing	1	1	0	0
Summit Racing	1	1	0	0
Blinkers On	1	1	0	0
Bongo	0	0	0	0
Centennial	0	0	0	0
Fantasy Lane Stable	0	0	0	0
Funky Monkey Stable	0	0	0	0
Magdalena Racing	0	0	0	0
Parting Glass Racing	0	0	0	0
Sackatoga Stable	0	0	0	0
Sovereign	0	0	0	0
Starview	0	0	0	0
Thoroughbred Futures	0	0	0	0

Source: TVI statistician Kathleen Jones, from reports from Bloodstock Journal and TDN. Stats are current through August 28, 2012.

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Spa Day

Brown-trained filly
Dayatthespa returns
with turf stakes score

BY SEAN CLANCY

Chad Brown walked down the stairs from the box seats and summed up the Riskaverse in two words. "She's back."

Dayatthespa returned to the races for the first time since April, efficiently taking the 1-mile turf stakes for Brown and Javier Castellano. Owned by Jerry and Ronald Frankel, Steve Laymon and Bradley Thoroughbreds, the 3-year-old daughter of City Zip won for the fourth consecutive time and fifth overall.

Undefeated on the New York-bred, Castellano made the move of the day when he allowed third choice Assateague to clear going into the first turn. Breaking from the 6 stall, Assateague broke running while Dayatthespa broke well too.

The fillies separated from their six rivals and went stride-for-stride under the wire and into the first turn. Castellano didn't like it, backing the favorite from the speed snafu.

Assateague posted the first quarter mile in 23.53 seconds as Dayatthespa accepted Castellano's grip, relaxing in second. Sweet And Lovely sat third with Run



Dave Harmon

Dayatthespa (right) and Assateague (left) lead the field into the first turn of Friday's Riskaverse.

A Risk in fourth and second choice Alaura Michele, who broke through the gate earlier, tucked in fifth on the rail. Assateague continued ambitiously through a half in 47.18, opening 2 lengths on Dayatthespa who tugged for a moment but settled as best she could. Midway on the turn, Castellano took his foot off the brake and allowed Dayatthespa to launch past the pacesetter with ease. Castellano flicked his whip right-handed as Dayatthespa rolled to the lead nearing the eighth pole and easily held off Peace Preserver who rallied late to be second with Alaura Michele third. The winner punched the clock at 1:34.20 for the mile on firm turf.

Brown noted Castellano's move into the first turn. "Javier made the right move into the first turn," Brown said. "A lot of these two-turn turf races, especially at Saratoga, are won and lost in the first turn. He made the right move."

After riding Dayatthespa to three wins from January to April and breezing her three times at the meet, Castellano had faith she would respond when he asked her to cede the lead to Assateague. He asked, she listened, they won.

"It really was key, my plan was to dictate the pace,

See **RISKAVERSE** page 34 ►

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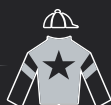
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Cherokee's Boy	Oratory
Citidancer	Our Emblem
Concern	Outflanker
Country Only	Parker's Storm Cat
Crowd Pleaser	Partner's Hero
Cruisin' Dixie	Perfecting
Crypto Star	Polish Miner
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Deputed Testimony	Polish Payola
Deputy Storm	Precious Marque
Diamond	Press Card
Disco Rico	Private Key
Domestic Dispute	Pulverizing
Dr. Best	Purple Passion
Eastern Echo	Que Man
Fantasticat	Regal American
Firestar	Rinka Das
Fleet Foot	Rock Slide
Gators N Bears	Root Boy
Go for Gin	Rouse the Louse
Goldmember	Rubiyat
Great Notion	Rush Bay
Greek Sun	Same Day Delivery
Green Alligator	Scipion
Gyrfalcon (GB)	Secret Firm
Hawk in Flight	Seeking Daylight
Horatius	Smart Alec
In Case	Smart Guy
Itaka	Smelly
Ivory Frontier (Ire)	St Averil
Java Royal	Sticks and Bricks
Jazz Club	Storm Broker
Ken Doll	Swear by Dixie
La Reine's Terms	Tamayaz
Larrupin'	Touch 'n' Fly (Ire)
Lion Hearted	Trial Prep
Lord Concorde	Trim Account
Love of Money	Two Punch
Louis Quatorze	Unbridled Jet
Makin Money	Unbridled Mate
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Riskaverse —

■ Continued from page 32

go for the lead, I didn't think the other horse had the speed like I have, but she didn't break that sharp and I see Shaun force a little bit and go to the lead, you know what, let me lay off a little bit," Castellano said. "I know my horse, she'll lay off it a little bit, I took a nice hold and let her relax, let her get her stride, I think it was the right move to win the race. She gave me good feedback going down the backside, she allowed me to target the other horse."

Dayatthespa had four months to think about it.

The lightly made filly won her debut here last summer, toying with New York-breds. She dominated so harshly, she's never faced them again. Brown shipped her to Woodbine where she finished second in the Natalma. I

mpressed with those two efforts, the team supplemented her to the Breeders' Cup where she finished ninth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. Freshened, she returned to win the Sweetest Chant at Gulfstream, then picked off the Herecomesthebride Stakes at Gulfstream and the Appalachian Stakes at Keeneland. Sitting on three-race win streak, Dayatthespa stared at blue skies ahead. Or not. She failed to train the same way and needed time.

Brown walked her for 30 days, then tried again.

"I was this-close to sending her home and I said, 'Let me keep her and just forget about her, let's just hand walk her for a month.' After 30 days, I got her out and jogged her down the road and she was cold and tight, then we jogged her and she hasn't looked back," Brown said. "With horses, there's a lot of stop and go, it's not an exact science, she was sore, we gave her the time and she responded, we try to listen when they're telling us something, she just needed a break."

After 30 days of walking, a few weeks of jogging, then galloping, Dayatthespa returned with her first breeze June 9, going a half-mile on the dirt in 49.20. She worked a half-mile every week for five consecutive



Tod Marks

Dayatthespa leads Alaura Michele late in the Riskaverse Friday, trainer Chad Brown's third consecutive day with a stakes win.

weeks before switching to the turf.

Castellano climbed aboard for a 5-furlong breeze July 13, another one in company with Group 1 winner Samitar July 19 (in 59.02) and her final breeze five days before the Riskaverse.

"Every work was solid, particularly her work two works ago, she worked five-eighths with Samitar, who

won a group one in Ireland already, believe me, she gave her all she wanted, that's a good measuring stick. She gave us a lot of confidence when she did that," Brown said. "This is a top filly, we love this horse, I thought enough of her to supplement her to the Breeders' Cup, it doesn't surprise me, I wouldn't have brought her back if she wasn't at this level."

Irish-breds are winning everywhere ...

Congratulations to Mike Kilber, Pete Bradley, Chad Brown and Watsdachances (IRE), winner of the P.G. Johnson at Saratoga.

Congratulations Anthony Fanticola, Joe Scardino, Mike Mitchell and Obviously (IRE), winner of the Grade II Del Mar Mile at Del Mar.

Good luck to Sovereign Stable on recent purchase, Fearless Jacq (IRE), next stop Grade II Natalma Stakes at Woodbine.

Good luck to Three Chimneys Racing, Trevor Harris, Roger Attfield and Kissable (IRE) in the Glens Falls Monday at Saratoga, going for her second stakes win at the meet.



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Big Smile

Favored Rodriguez 2-year-old My Happy Face flies home in opener

BY TOM SANTOMARCO

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

My Happy Face broke her maiden in the first with a 21 ¼-length win that may turn out to be the laugher of the summer. That doesn't necessarily mean watching the filly's victory was easy for owner Michael Dubb and trainer Rudy Rodriguez.

"I was a little nervous at the gate because she's acted up there before, but when she broke well I knew that was it," Rodriguez said. "We've worked with her and she's been much better the

last couple of weeks."

My Happy Face stormed out in front and had the field in her dust with a 12-length lead at the stretch of the 5 ½-furlong maiden race. The 2-year-old's previous start resulted in a second here July 25, but she left no doubt in this one. As they neared the wire she could've been already been mugging for the post-race photo.

Rodriguez credited jockey Ramon

Dominguez for helping the Kentucky-bred reach this point.

"The filly needed somebody like that to relax and get along with her because she's got her own mind," he said.

Dubb said he knew what the daughter of Tiz Wonderful and Summer Star could do and was just hoping she'd run to her capability. "When you know they're good you have such high expectations and you don't want to get let down," Dubb said.

The owner was far from let down and says it's been satisfying watching a horse he bought for \$35,000 develop the way My Happy Face has.

"You never really know," he said. "You do the best you can and hope this happens."

• The friends and family of Damchu Stables came pouring into the winner's circle after Cantonic brought home a win in the second. That the group was eager to start the handshakes and smiles was understandable since it was, after all, the gelding's fourth straight victory under Rosie Napravnik.

And then there was a lull.

An objection was raised by Javier Castellano, the jockey on runner-up Hobbs, after some light contact in the stretch. It took a few minutes, but the objection wasn't allowed and the party was back on for the winners.

This one was a battle between Cantonic and Hobbs all the way. They were neck and neck at the stretch when the

See **FRIDAY RECAP** page 37 ►



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Friday Recap —

■ Continued from page 36

gelding took over, galloping home in 1:41.51 to win the 1 1/16-mile starter optional claimer by 2 1/2 lengths.

For Damchu's Tony Damiano, the run of wins is a payoff a long time in the making.

"We had some problems with him after we bought him. He's been through a couple of trainers and had a medical issue, but we always saw the potential," the owner said.

Damiano is used to waiting for the 6-year-old, so he didn't mind that the objection delayed the celebration. In fact, he thought the contact helped his horse.

"He's a horse that always wants to have someone next to him," Damiano said. "This is the first time he won by so many lengths. Usually he pins his ears back, puts his head down and runs. He just took off in the last sixteenth, so I was surprised to see that."

The winner is conditioned by Mike Maker.

• It was just another day at the office for Todd Pletcher, who picked up a stakes victory in the third to bring his win total for the meet to 32.

This one came early in Friday's card when Mildly Offensive won The Big Bambu, at 6 1/2 furlongs on the main track. The 4-year-old broke well from the fourth post and was on the lead after a 44.32-second half.

"There were some fast fractions. We figured we'd let her get into it," Pletcher said. "That's kind of her game."

It was the WinStar Farm homebred's race to lose after taking over and the filly hung on to hold off Kid Kate by a half length in 1:15.94 for jockey John Velazquez.

• Uncle Southern delivered the upset of the day in the sixth. The 18-1 shot was a wire-to-wire winner in her second career start for trainer Linda Rice after failing to hit the board the first time out here.



Tod Marks

Mildly Offensive (right) finishes in the Big Bambu Stakes.

So what was different this time?

"Last time she broke and ducked out because she was on the outside," Rice said. "This time she got inside. We were working at the gate a couple of days ago."

The trainer said she thought the filly's performance in her first start combined with the fact that she was facing off against the boys led to her long odds.

The longshot was grouped with gelding Goodto-look the whole way through the turf race for 2-year-old maidens bred in New York.

It was a tight finish and J and M Racing Stables' filly almost ran out of gas, crossing the wire ahead by a neck, her slimmest lead of the 5 1/2 furlongs.

Pie's First Lady, another Rice filly, finished third.

• Steve Asmussen solidified his hold on third in the trainer standings with his 12th win of the meet in the day's last race, a \$35,000 claimer.

Zayat Stables' Bravo Habibi made it look easy,

leading from the gate to the finish to pick up his first win since February.

"He broke sharply and Joel (Rosario) took it from there. He handled the firm turf well today," Asmussen said. "He ran second in the same race last time (July 23). There was good spacing between races for him and he came through."

The colt led by 2 1/2 lengths at the stretch and held on to win by 1 1/2 lengths in 1:01.66. Longshot Shontinthe fog made a nice run at the finish and was second by a half-length over favored Partly Mocha.

• Dale Romans summed things up simply after Sustained won the fourth, a 2-year-old turf maiden.

"She did it the right way," the trainer said.

Paul Pompa's filly started strong near the inside and then sat off the pace before poking her head back into contention at the stretch. The Kentucky-bred trailed Manuka Honey by just a head when she turned it on near the finish, powering ahead to win the 1 1/16-mile race by 2 1/2 lengths.

"This is the kind of race we were wanting. We wanted her to just settle and make a nice run," Romans said. "I was very impressed with her."

The winner posted a third in her first start here on opening day.

• King Ting's 7-length win in the fifth may have been more of an eye-popper if not for the margin of victory in the first.

The 4-year-old led out of the gate, then dropped back behind pacesetters Surprise Strike and Sietes Machos.

"That's right where I wanted to be," jockey Javier Castellano said. "Turning for home it opened up and I had a lot of confidence because I knew he had enough left."

The gelding had more than enough left. He sprinted out ahead of the field to win the mile turf race in 1:34.55.

The win was Castellano's first of two on the day and trainer Mike Maker's second.

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by Sean Clancy

I'll miss the trees. I won't miss the hot son on the back of a navy blazer.

I'll miss the cups of tea in the morning. I won't miss the cups of coffee at night.

I'll miss watching Bill Mott watch his horses. I won't miss the trainers who don't know their horses.

I'll miss Billy Joel's New York State of Mind. I won't miss my state of mind when I don't have a column idea.

I'll miss Ramon Dominguez looking to the heavens as he walks into the winner's circle. I won't miss trying to walk through the Travers crowd as Rafael Bejarano brushes me off like pollen from a pine tree.

I'll miss the dead heats. I won't miss the tough beats.

I'll miss the dogs who bark. I won't miss the dogs who owe us money.

I'll miss Broadway. I won't miss the bagpiper on Broadway.

I'll miss the mansions. I won't miss the monstrosities.

I'll miss my house on Caroline Street. I won't miss getting out of my car every night to open the gate at my house on Caroline.

I'll miss clocking horses with Bryan Walls. I won't miss clocking hours late into the night.

I'll miss turf works. I won't miss turf injuries.

I'll miss analyzing races with John Panagot. I won't miss analyzing races with knowitalls.

I'll miss talking to the Chief. I won't miss talking to the freeloaders.

I'll miss Lucca Cristiano bossing me around on Fridays. I won't miss the drunks staggering the streets on Fridays.

I'll miss Saratoga Coffee Traders. I won't miss Saratoga traffic.

I'll miss handing The Special to Tom Bellhouse and Mike Balfe first thing in the morning. I won't miss them tapping their watches when I'm late (OK, maybe a little).

I'll miss finding the key to a good triple. I won't miss having to use a key to go to the bathroom.

I'll miss Lucy, Jasmine, Ivan and the Morning Line Kitchen. I won't miss the trash on the ground at the Morning Line Kitchen.

I'll miss the creativity. I won't miss needing to be creative.

I'll miss the sunrises. I won't miss the Dumpsters.

I'll miss my nephews. I won't miss saying goodbye to my nephews.

I'll miss going for a run. I won't miss going for a run (because I didn't run).

I'll miss the feeling of a job well done when the paper comes out each morning. I won't miss the feeling of a long way from home each morning.

I'll miss the questions. I won't miss asking the questions.

I'll miss the morning banter. I won't miss the morning siren.

I'll miss the fans. I won't miss the knockers.

I'll miss Shoeshine Chico. I won't miss wearing my loafers that need a polish every day.

I'll miss the readers, like Jay and Jessica, who knock on our door to say hello. I won't miss knocking on tackroom doors.

I'll miss the morning smells. I won't miss the smell of garlic wafting from men who ate at Chianti the night before.

I'll miss the moon over the grandstand in the morning. I won't miss the moon I see on the way home every night.

I'll miss the horses. I won't miss the worry.

I'll miss Irad Ortiz's smile. I won't miss the snarls.

I'll miss moments like Emma's Encore in the Priors. I won't miss moments like the last fence of the New York Turf Writers Cup when Divine Fortune and Left Unsaid fell.

I'll miss the jump races. I won't miss the writers who bash the jumpers.

I'll miss discovering Rollingwiththetide on his way to the track. I won't miss the sinking feeling when he got beat in the finale on Travers Day.

I'll miss the readers who handed me a goodbye column from 2009 and asked me to run it again. I won't miss being asked to run free ads.

I'll miss George and Cindy Weaver riding along like newlyweds every morning. I won't miss the angry exercise riders who whip instead of pat.

I'll miss meeting new friends. I won't miss saying goodbye to old friends.

I'll miss finishing the last line of another column and telling Joe, Coffee's ready. I won't miss needing another idea in the morning.

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